

Dedham Pond, Pembroke	245
Mashpee Pond, Mashpee	120
Snipituit Pond, N. Rochester	100
Abington Meadows	100
Whitman Pond, Weymouth	120
Great Pond, Weymouth	35
Hingham Harbor	70
Ponkapoag Pond, Canton	108
Indian Head Pond, Pembroke	50
Factory Pond, Hanson	50
Chebacco Pond, Essex	41
Lily Pond, Cohasset	45
Bog in South Hingham	50
Jacob's Pond, Assinippi	50
All other places, about	150
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Total	3519

These figures cannot be actually vouched for, but I believe that they are not far from the actual totals. The figure 150, for "all other places" is probably much too low. Mr. A. B. Gardner of Accord, Mass., who collected most of this data for me can be absolutely relied upon. He writes under date of March 7, 1912. "I know that most of these records are correct, and think the rest of them are very close to the right number as I saw someone from most of the places, etc."

There are about 40 gunning stands included in the records.—J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

A Peculiar Plumage of the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis canadensis*).—On Nov. 29, 1911, Dr. Rockwell A. Coffin, of Boston, Mass., killed at Clark's Island, near Plymouth, Mass., a male Canada goose, on which the white patch on throat and cheeks was missing. The bird's head was entirely black, with the exception of a few small lighter colored feathers on its throat, which showed only upon a very close examination. "He came in with seven other geese on the 29th of November. The other geese were darker on the side of the head than usual." Possibly this may have been an entire family, in which this peculiarity of plumage had become more or less marked.—FRED. H. KENNARD, *Boston, Mass.*

Late Record of the Red-backed Sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*) in Massachusetts.—On Dec. 27, 1911, I noted a small flock of Red-backed Sandpipers (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*) at Muskeget Island, Mass. On the 31st I came upon a flock of nine in a driving snowstorm, two of which I secured and found very fat.

I last noted four of these birds on the 14th of January, 1912. Though the nine previous days had been very severe, covering almost all the shore

with ice, these four birds seemed in good condition and they were busily engaged in finding an apparent abundance of food.

The latest record that I can find for this species in Massachusetts, is December 24 (Howe & Allen, *Birds of Mass.*, p. 42.)—WINTHROP S. BROOKS, *Milton, Mass.*

An Albino Egg of Wilson's Plover.—On May 20th, I found a nest of Wilson's Plover (*Ochthodromus wilsonius*) containing three eggs, one a perfect albino. As this egg in size, shape, and texture of shell, corresponds with the other two there seems to be no doubt but that the same bird laid them all. The nesting site was on a shell reef seldom visited by anyone.—GILBERT R. ROSSIGNOL, JR., *Savannah, Georgia.*

Pigeons do not Carry their Eggs.—Bendire in his 'Life Histories of North American Birds' quotes a statement from Mr. Otho C. Poling to the effect that the Band-tailed Pigeon may carry an egg "embedded in the feathers of the belly, and further, held by the legs while flying; but in such cases they seem simply to alight on a limb of a spruce and incubate there without any nest." The only tangible evidence Mr. Poling gives for this extraordinary conclusion, is to the effect that he has more than once, on shooting a female, found an egg embedded in the feathers of the belly. Bendire endorses neither the observations nor the conclusion, but says (p. 126):

"I have quoted, without further comment, the remarkable statement of Mr. Poling, in regard to the alleged removal of eggs by this pigeon."

The matter might have been allowed to rest, were it not that Knowlton, in his *Birds of the World* (p. 420) has quoted Mr. Poling's conclusion with approval, thus:

"It seems to be established beyond question that when the sitting bird is driven from the nest the egg is not infrequently carried along, being held close to the abdomen by the feet, and immediately on alighting on a limb incubation is resumed without any nest. On this point Mr. O. C. Poling, writing to Major Bendire, says:" etc.

Let us see whether the alleged habit is "established beyond question." The existence of such a habit is rendered extremely improbable, in the first place, by a consideration of the general behavior of pigeons. Pigeons never carry anything with their feet. I have seen pigeons tear up their nest with their bills and thus roll out two eggs that had failed to hatch; but this is very different from carrying the eggs. Again, a pigeon recognizes her egg only by the fact that it is in her nest. Put a strange egg in her nest and she will accept it as her own. Remove her own egg from the nest and place it "on a limb" and she has no means of knowing that it is her egg. Even in those cases, to be mentioned presently, in which I have seen a female carry an egg from the nest inadvertently, I believe she did not recognize it as an egg; at least, she did not sit on it outside the nest. Even if the female carried an egg from the nest and sat on it herself, it is hard to